



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Working Together for Student Success

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses
FROM: Steve Balko, Director of School Building Security
DATE: November 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Vision Screening Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Indiana law regarding vision screenings has not changed for this school year. Thus, vision screening requirements remain in effect for all students in the required grade levels (this includes both in-person and virtual learners). Schools must obtain a visual acuity reading for each student in the required grade levels of K or 1, 3, 5, and 8.

Although it is best practice to complete vision screenings in the fall, the law does not stipulate a specific date by which these annual screenings must be completed. Schools can choose to wait until the spring semester to screen students and will have until the end of the school year to complete the screening process.

If students will be virtual learners for the entire school year, schools will need to work with parents to develop a time when students can come to school to obtain their vision screening. No student should be required to submit to a vision screening test if written objection by the parent/guardian is submitted to the proper school authority.

Once schools develop procedures to safely conduct screenings during the COVID-19 pandemic, schools may begin to screen students at any time. Although schools may be able to safely screen students for distance visual acuity, they may have to wait until the spring to conduct the near visual acuity screening.

Guidance for modifying vision screening procedures during COVID-19 can be found on the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health webpage by clicking [here](#).

For students in grades K or 1, an additional Modified Clinical Technique (MCT) vision screening by a licensed eye professional is required. Indiana state law does provide a waiver for the MCT portion of the vision screening for students in grades K or 1. If schools are unable to obtain the services of a licensed eye professional by the end of this school year, a waiver can be requested by completing this [form](#). The waiver form will be open until June 15. The waiver does not apply to the visual acuity screening requirement for students in grades K or 1.

Please contact Jolene Bracale at jbracale@doe.in.gov with any questions you may have.

Indiana Department of Education

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